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RUNGE, YEVGENY Y. (LT. COL.)

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East-West Bridges Tumbling Down

The more glimpses we get into the sinister world of the cloak and the dagger the curiouser it becomes. The most recent case in point is a report that one reason our Central Intelligence Agency made such a public thing of the defection of the Soviet agent Yevgeny Y. Runge was that he was an *illegal* spy.

Heretofore we lived under the naive delusion that all spies were illegal, that the name of the game, as they say, was cheating. Perhaps it still is, but certain refinements have developed. Like Prohibition gangsters, spies have found it convenient to work out some ground rules.

It is generally accepted in better espionage circles, we are told, that a nation does not saturate the market in a given country with agents; rather, a numerical balance is discreetly maintained. And it is agreed that there should be only two classifications of spies—those assigned to embassies ostensibly as clerks or chauffeurs, and citizens of foreign nations who work in their native countries as paid agents. The advantages are obvious. No need for a scorecard, no time lost trailing the wrong people, no hiding microphones anywhere but in the other fellow's embassy, no risk of doing away with a *real* tourist, and so on. In short, ground rules keep down overhead and minimize ulcers.

Now along come those unethical Russians with a spy who is neither a native informant nor a member of a Soviet embassy staff, but a man operating under entirely false pretenses. For 11 years Yevgeny Runge plied his trade as a spy, all the while posing as Willi Gast, ordinary West German vending machine salesman. A clear breach of spy etiquette if we've ever heard one. We shudder

at the damage this revelation may do to East-West bridge building, not to mention the credibility of every West German vending machine salesman. As they are no doubt fond of saying at CIA headquarters, if you can't trust a spy, whom can you trust?